

JACKSON CORSET COMPANY



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Their goods are handled by the best merchants from Maine to California and from Mexico to Canada; in fact, the Company enjoys a good export trade, shipping as they do to several foreign countries.

The offices of the Jackson Corset Co. are spacious and well lighted, and every care and precaution has been taken, looking toward the comfort of the office force.

On entering the offices the first is the reception room, to the front is the general office,

the left the Manager's and Secretary's office where the executive work of the Company is done.

Next to the office is the Collection and Credit Department. Opposite this is the Display and Directors' Room.

In the Display or Salesroom, whose walls are lined with cabinets, are found the latest creations for the "Women Who Care."

One of the business features of this mammoth plant is the telephone service whereby each department is connected with the others thus facilitating matters.

The Building is solid brick and very sub-



Jackson's Public Library

Press Jan 25.11

BY JOHN S. CLEAVINGER, LIBRARIAN



AND REW CARNEGIE'S GIFT TO JACKSON.

The Jackson public library furnishes an excellent example of the growth of the library movement which has been general throughout the country during the last quarter of a century. From very small beginnings, this library has grown in a comparatively few years to be a large municipal business institution, serving a constantly increasing portion of the citizens of Jackson, and each year adding to its lines of work. For the growth of the library has meant not only a more energetic, aggressive attitude in the effort to get people to make use of its facilities, it has meant the entering upon new fields of work which a generation ago were scarcely dreamed of as a part of a library's function. The present day conception of the public library is that it should be a sort of civic center, using its resources in every practical way that will make for the progress or the improvement of the city.

Library Well Equipped.

During the past few years particularly notable progress has been made. The library has been brought to a handsome building of its own, well located, beautiful in design and adequate for the purposes of a modern, well organized institution. Improved methods have been adopted, more books have been bought than ever before, the various parts of the building have been completed as resources would permit. Until now the library is equipped for many forms of activity.

The fundamental business of this kind of any library is the acquisition and distribution of books. During the year 1910, 2,324 volumes were added to the library, these include books on all kinds of subjects, and for all kinds of people. The purchase of books is governed by a number of different considerations. An effort is always made to have in the library all books worth while that our resources will allow; to do this careful attention has to be given to all records of recent publications, book reviews, etc. Our aim is to be able to give each reader the book he wants, at the time he wants it, if we cannot do this, to be able to suggest and to give him another book answering the demand as nearly as possible. This involves much duplication of titles, in order that we may even approximately meet the call of the more popular books; the extent of this duplication must be based on a careful estimate of the probable demand for the new books. In addition a close watch of the condition of our books must be kept; every month a large shipment of them goes to the binder. The life of a book that gets as much, and unfortunately, sometimes, as careless handling as a library book does, is not by any means a long one; much time and money have to be spent in keeping the stock in such condition that borrowers will care to take the books home. Every day some books must be withdrawn entirely from the collection because they have reached a stage of dilapidation beyond repair; careful records of these must be kept, so that the desirable ones may be replaced by fresh copies with as little delay as possible.

Much Fiction Read.

A large percentage of our circulation, as in any library, is fiction. This is only partially to be regretted; while there never was a time when as many novels were published, a large part of them of no permanent value, on the other hand a constantly growing school of writers who have theses to present, offer their argument in story form. Many books that a few years ago would have appeared as dry and uninteresting treatises, now take on the more graphic form of the novel, and reach a far wider circle of readers than would otherwise be the case.

Both authors and publishers are realizing the desirability of making books non-fiction specimens of good attractive bookmaking, as well as popular in style. We find the latest book of such writers as Henry Van Dyke, William Allen White, or Jane Addams, in almost as great demand as a recent novel.

The library is a business institution, and as such must be administered in a businesslike fashion. It is desirable that we have the very minimum of red tape, placing the very fewest obstacles possible between the reader and the book at the same time. It is necessary that we keep an accurate detailed system of accounts, so that we may tell at any moment what the library proper is doing, and what the various departments are doing.

ments, each having its own special work.

Importance of Children's Department.

In some ways the most important department of the library is the children's department. It is here that we have the greatest chance to be helpful in a way that will be of permanent value. Good reading can be suggested to the young reader almost always without antagonism, and in this way each child helped has been made to appreciate something of the joy and the privilege of reading books that are worth while, as well as encouraged to become a regular patron of the library. The department is in charge of a worker trained to handle children skillfully. An effort is made to have even a higher standard of what is worth while in the children's room than in the main collection, and to have there only good, attractive, well-made books. A library representative visits the schools as systematically as possible, bringing the resources of the library to the children. We are endeavoring to help the children in the outlying schools, ten far away to come to the building, by lending to the schools small collections of carefully chosen books for the children to take in their homes. Each week a troupe of youngsters flock to the library at the story hour; at this time they hear stories told, taken from the best in literature. Many of these children have no opportunity for this kind of pleasure in their homes. One evening each week a club of older boys meets to read the stories of the great heroes of history, or to debate and learn parliamentary practice.

Value of Reference Department.

The reference department is one of the most interesting parts of any library's work. The books of this library are being used more and more in this direction, and through use are being more and more developed. In the course of a single day the variety of questions that come for us to answer is most interesting, whether it be the small boy who wants us to identify some unusual bird's egg, the worried housewife who telephones in for a recipe for bean munge, or the practical man looking for something on the cost system of factory account-

ing, or details of the process of forming tool steel, the club woman who wants to prepare a paper on the personal characteristics of Henry the Fourth, or on the progress made in aerial navigation in the last six months, we ought to be ready to give any of this information as quickly as possible, and to this end the information that is in our books must be indicated as clearly as we can show it in our card catalog. The making of this catalog is the work of another distinct department.

Auditorium Completed.

Finally, there are the outside organizations with whom we are able to co-operate, and whose work is along lines in harmony with that of the public library. The library building is equipped with a good display gallery, which makes it possible for the art association to bring to Jackson some unusually fine exhibits of pictures which most cities of this size do not have a chance to see. A club room is always available for meetings of women's clubs, and such organizations as the Town Improvement Society. Only recently, a well equipped auditorium seating some 220 people has been completed on the lower floor of the building. This room is available for almost all kinds of public meetings, without charge.

The control of the library is in the hands of a board of directors of nine members, appointed by the mayor. The present board is composed of the following men: O. E. Reeves, president, John E. Bailey, vice president, H. F. Erickson, secretary, A. H. Field, Jr., M. J. Moore, J. D. Morton, C. G. Hill, L. A. Worth and G. E. Lewis.

Curiously enough, there are still people who seem to hold the notion expressed a number of years ago that a librarian is a person who keeps you from getting the book you want. "But object is to dispel such an idea. If it does still exist in Jackson, to have the books the people want before they ask for them, if we can to cause them to want more and better books all the time, by every legitimate resource at our command; and finally, to have every citizen of Jackson feel that the public library is his institution, for his pleasure and profit, and that only through the sustained and increasing interest of the people can we hope for an increase of our efficiency in serving them."

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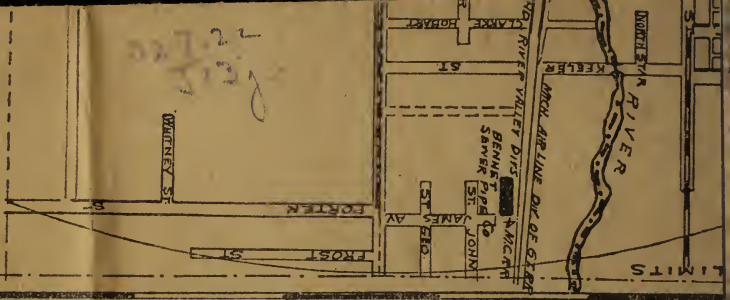
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MAP OF THE CITY

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